



Week 1, Day 2: God Faces Evil and Pain Head-On

John 16:33 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

What do you do when there's nothing you can do? We all have seasons in our lives when we find ourselves in situations we cannot fix. It might be a marriage that's not changing, a child that's not changing, or a financial situation that is not changing. Often, we take the wheel and find ourselves in more trouble than we were before. We tell ourselves, "I'll never be happy again. Nothing good can come from this. There is no point in continuing." Have you found yourself in an "now what" situation? Did you try to take control? What lies did you tell yourself in that season?

Some religions seek to explain away the ills of the world. Bad things are attributed to karma, or blamed solely on man's own misguided actions, or chalked up to God's inattention.

Not so with Christianity. It does not sugarcoat the evil in the world: "When the world tells us, as it does, that everyone has a right to a life that is easy, comfortable, and relatively pain-free, a life that enables us to discover, display, and deploy all the strengths that are latent within us, the world twists the truth right out of shape."

Jesus' worldview was very different. He pulled no punches: "In this world you will have trouble." Yet he didn't leave it there. He encouraged his followers: "But take heart! I have overcome the world."

For further study: [Read Romans 8.](#)

What encouragement do you see in Romans 8 for difficult times?